

## **Ideas**

### **Any activity that allows students to practice...**

*prewriting*  
*generating ideas from thought/experience*  
*borrowing ideas from other writers*  
*keeping writer's notebooks*  
*knowing the purpose for writing*  
*moving from broad topic to focused theme*  
*learning to observe carefully*  
*developing thinking skills (comparison, analysis, inference)*

#### **1. J Peterman Owner's Manual**

This delightfully creative catalogue of women's and men's clothing and accessories is the perfect idea resource. Begin by sharing several examples of the clothing items with the story text from the catalogue. Then ask students to select one item of their own clothing (outer wear is best!) and create a story about it – the catalogue can be used as a model. The purpose is to make the item so attractive, everyone will want to buy it. One teacher said that she gathered items from the lost and found and had kids work in groups to write the text and draw the pictures. There are lots of options! Call 800/231-7341 for your own copy of the J. Peterman Owner's Manual.

#### **3. Popcorn Reminiscence**

Pop some corn during class. While the corn is popping and the sounds and aroma fill the room, ask students to jot down bits of memories they associate with popping corn. At the end, they can write a story relating to popping corn. Or, perhaps they can write "10 Ways to Improve the Taste and Texture of Pop Corn." Or how about "Why Does Pop Corn Cost So Much at the Movies?" Or, "The Real Difference Between Air Popped and Oil Popped Corn!" Lots of topics can emerge here. Just allow the students to get into it before they begin to write. The smell and taste should do the trick! Great resource: *The Popcorn Book* by Tomie de Paola (interesting facts, data, history—even recipes).